

**MINUTES
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
COUNTY OF YORK, VIRGINIA
REGULAR MEETING
November 16, 2006**

Meeting Convened. A regular meeting of the York County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) was called to order at approximately 7:00 p.m., Thursday, November 16, 2006.

Attendance. The following members of the PRAB were present: Ms. Donna Simkins, Mr. Bart Barton, Ms. Sharon Kline, Mr. Jack Christie, Mr. Bill Euker, and Mr. James Elder. Staff present was Ms. Cheryl Sonderman.

Consideration of Minutes. The minutes of the July 20 and September 21, 2006 meetings were approved.

Review of Operating and Capital Budget Submissions. A summary of the attached Parks and Recreation Division budget submission was discussed. Ms. Sonderman outlined the schedule for the upcoming budget process. The PRAB asked Ms. Sonderman to inquire about the feasibility of setting up an Enterprise Fund for the proposed concession operations for the new Athletic Field Complex. She said she would discuss that with Financial and Management Services staff and report back to the PRAB. The PRAB would like to have this item placed on the agenda for January meeting so that they can endorse the budget submission and communicate their support to the Board of Supervisors.

Revision of By-Laws. The PRAB reviewed the proposed changes to their by-laws and voted unanimously to adopt the changes. A copy of the revised by-laws is attached.

Use of Old County Landfill for a Dog Park. Ms. Sonderman updated the PRAB on the meeting that took place on Friday, September 22 to discuss the status of the discussions between the County and a private entity that owns property adjacent to the Old Landfill. She reported that negotiations between the private landowner who wants to develop their property and provide access to the Old Landfill site and an existing property owner have not yielded any favorable results. That being the case, there is no solution at this time for obtaining an easement for access into that site.

In addition, staff from Environmental and Development Services raised concerns about any major development on the Old Landfill site, as most of it had been filled with trash and settling of the filled areas will continue. They also made mention that methane gas is still venting from the site and public use of it would need to have certain restrictions, such as no smoking. Ms. Sonderman said that she would need to have more detailed information on the site before she would be comfortable recommending it for any type of public use and development of it could be very costly.

Mr. Barton reported that he has spoken with Mr. Shepperd about developing a dog park and that he is not opposed to considering the idea.

Wormley Creek Landing Project. Staff intends to apply for a grant from the Virginia Marine Resources Commission Recreational Fishing Advisory Board for development of this site. The grant application is due in June 2007. The PRAB expressed their willingness to attend one of the public meetings scheduled as part of the grant process to express their support for this project like they did for the Smith Landing project.

Athletic Field Complex Update. Ms. Sonderman reported that the construction drawings were 100% completed and under review for final approval. Various permits for the project are also in the process of being submitted, with a target of early spring for notification from the agencies of approval. Second phase cultural resource work had been initiated on the site due to the discovery of some Civil War sites and that work is near completion. The easement for access is also in negotiations with the property owner. Construction of the H-1 Regional BMP is in progress on the Burts Road parcel.

PRAB Webpage. The PRAB requested that their webpage continue to be improved, making it easier to find and adding items such as draft agendas and minutes for future meetings. They also asked staff to inquire as to whether or not they could be responsible for maintaining their webpage. Ms. Sonderman would make that inquiry and report at the next meeting. The PRAB also asked if an article about the PRAB could be included in the next issue of the Citizen News and Ms. Sonderman said that she would be happy to submit such an article.

Matters Presented by the Board. The PRAB asked that Ms. Sonderman invite Ms. Amy Parker to the next meeting so that she can provide an update on the County's Bikeway and Greenway Plans.

Ms. Simkins reminded the PRAB that the January meeting is their organizational meeting and that they will be electing officers at that time. Due to conflicts with the January 18, 2007 meeting date, the PRAB moved the meeting to January 25, 2007.

Mr. Barton asked about the status of filling the vacancy of Mr. Herndon. Ms. Sonderman said that the Board of Supervisors should appoint someone in December.

The PRAB commended staff on their recent receipt of statewide awards from the Virginia Recreation and Park Society.

Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:30 p.m.